

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 261530Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1216

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0038

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER DIEFENBAKER TO
HALIFAX

1. FORMER PRIME MINISTER JOHN DIEFENBAKER ARRIVED IN
HALIFAX ON JANUARY 25, 1976 IN CONNECTION WITH SPEECH HE
IS TO MAKE ON JANUARY 26 HONORING HALIFAX BUSINESSMAN
MITCHELL FRANKLIN.

2. IN COMMENTS TO MEDIA, MR DIEFENBAKER SAID
GOVERNMENT SHOULD REACTIVATE THE ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT
BOARD WHICH HE HAD SET UP WHILE PRIME MINISTER.
HE SAID BOARD HAD HAD ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT FUNDS TO
UNDERTAKE CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS TO REMOVE ECONOMIC
DISPARITY IN ATLANTIC CANADA.

3. MR DIEFENBAKER ENDORSED IDEA OF HARNESSING FUNDY
TIDES FOR ENERGY SAYING IT IS FEASIBLE AND SHOULD BE
UNDERTAKEN IMMEDIATELY. A TIDAL POWER DEVELOPMENT WOULD
BRING A NEW ECONOMIC PROSPERITY TO THE REGION. HE
PREDICTED THE PROJECT WOULD, HOWEVER, NOT BE UNDERTAKEN

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SO LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT IN OTTAWA IS LIBERAL.

4. THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER "LASHED OUT" AT PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU FOR BEING ABSENT FROM THE COUNTRY WHEN PARLIAMENT RECONVENES ON JANUARY 26. AFTER SETTING THE WHOLE COUNTRY ON FIRE WITH HIS "LEFTIST IDEAS AND HIS CONSIDERED OPINION THAT FREE ENTERPRISE MUST BE EMASCULATED", MR TRUDEAU IS "IN CUBA EMBRACING FIDEL CASTRO". HE SAID THE TRUDEAU VISIT TO CUBA WOULD GIVE CANADA "THE BLACKEST OF BLACK EYES". IN LIGHT OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN CONCERT WITH THE SOVIET UNION TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA, MR TRUDEAU'S "CUDDLING UP TO CASTRO" WILL BUILD UP RESENTMENT AND BE INTERPRETED AS CANADIAN APPROVAL FOR CASTRO'S ACTION IN ANGOLA. MANBEY

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Message Attributes

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